

Government House Lake, Rottnest. The birds were regularly seen during that week of school holidays and were the highlight of the Rottnest Voluntary Guides' daily bird walks. Often they were close together and within ten metres of the causeway making spectacular viewing. My daughter Shannon (12) and her cousins Miranda Ajduk (12) and Matthew Ryder (11) also spotted the phalaropes. Rottnest Voluntary Guides regularly saw those three phalaropes on Government House Lake and Pearse Lakes that spring and summer. Red-necked Phalaropes have been reported on Rottnest since then with the reports of a single bird in spring 1999 (Athene Baugh, pers. comm., 1999) and I saw another in January 2001 on Government House Lake.

I wonder whether Red-necked Phalaropes also visit the Swan and Canning Rivers where they would be very difficult to spot.

– PETER COYLE, 4 Luke Place,
Ascot, WA 6104

Competition between a Rainbow Lorikeet and a Twenty-eight Parrot for a nesting hollow – There is currently a great deal of controversy surrounding the ecological impacts of introduced Rainbow Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haemotodus moluccanus*) on Western Australian avifauna. Competition for nesting hollows between this species, first reported

at Wembley in 1968 (Storr, 1973, *Western Australian Naturalist* 12: p116), and less aggressive endemic parrot species has been cited as being potentially detrimental to native parrot populations. This note describes an observed confrontation between a nesting Rainbow Lorikeet and a Twenty-eight Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius semitorquatus*), in the grounds of The University of Western Australia. At approximately midday on Monday 22 July 2002 I observed a Twenty-eight parrot attempt to enter a nesting hollow in a Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) already occupied by a nesting Rainbow Lorikeet. The nesting hollow was located on a main branch approximately 12m from the ground. The Twenty-eight Parrot was seen to land on the branch next to the hollow and inspect the general area prior to landing at the hollow's opening. It was immediately repelled from the opening by a vocalising Rainbow Lorikeet emerging from the hollow. The Rainbow Lorikeet did not pursue the fleeing Twenty-eight Parrot, but returned to its nest. This observation supports previously cited evidence and personal accounts of Rainbow Lorikeets displacing native Twenty-eight Parrots from nesting sites in the Perth metropolitan area.

– A. N. LARCOMBE, Department
of Zoology, The University Of
Western Australia, Stirling
Highway, Nedlands W.A. 6009.